

The Cancer of Covetousness 1 Timothy 6:1-11

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Nov 21st

God has a Passion, Purpose, and Plan for our world but lacks some **Partners!**
(Ezek. 22:30; Is. 6:8; 2 Chron. 16:9 *"the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him."*)

(shālēm') complete, whole, peaceable; be at one with. From Shalam (safe) producing Shalom: peace!

- There are at least two major "forces" competing for our allegiance. John 10:10 "The thief" that comes to *"steal, and to kill, and to destroy."* He is also known as *"the god of this world"* who is a master at *"blinding the minds"* (2 Cor. 4:4) with the temporary *"pleasures of sin for a season."* (Heb. 11:25; 1 Jn 2:15,16)

His basic approach is to sacrifice the eternal (or long term) on the altar of the temporary.

- Jesus identified himself as the good shepherd who comes *"that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."* He consistently call us to be willing to sacrifice the "temporary" in order to obtain the eternal *"Treasures in heaven"* (Mt.6:20-22) because: *"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."*

Both the Shepherd and the thief are looking for Partners to further their plans!

Since "Fellowship" means "Partnership"; *Our choices may put us in partnership/fellowship with either the thief or the Shepherd!* (Eph. 5:11; 1 Cor. 10:20; 1 Jn 1:6)

Our **Peace** is related to this partnership! ("Peace" {eirene} means to "join") Jn 14:27

- Real Peace involves partnering with God! (Ps. 119:165 Is. 26:3)
- Real "anxiety" is the result of partnering (*ignorantly or intentionally*) with the thief!

Jesus calls us to follow (partner with) Him! Mt 11:28 *"take my yoke upon you and learn of me..."*

Our ability to follow Him is depended on our willingness to **learn** of Him!

If we take an honest look at Jesus we soon learn that he's passionate about reaching the lost!
Lk 19:10 *"The son of Man is come to seek and to save that which is lost."* (See also 2 Peter 3:9!)

In fact Jesus commands us to join him on this mission! (Mt. 28:18-20; Jn 20:19-21)

And promises his peace to those who will obey! (Jn 14:27)

Satan (the Thief) is also on a mission.

He's "anti-Christ" and seeks to thwart God's purposes.

The challenges and choices we face and make will determine the extent to which we are partnering with Christ or with "antichrist." We're going to examine some of the "Cancers" that Satan uses to keep us from Cooperating (partnering) with God.

The Cancer of Covetousness

1. The Meaning:

A. Old Testament. Ex 20:17 *"Thou shalt not covet..."* ḥāmad': to delight in, desire, Lust for temporary things.

1) What we're committed to becomes our **focus** and source of **fulfilment**. Mt. 6:21

"For where your treasure is (our focus, vs 22) there shall your heart be." (source of Fulfilment)

Joshua 1:8 *"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein ... that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: (Focus on God's Word and Ways!) for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."* (Fulfilment!)

2) Since we're made for Eternity, Commitment to the Temporary leads to frustration and fear/ **Anxiety**. 2 Pt 3:11 *"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be ..."* (See also 1 Jn. 2:18-20; 2 Cor. 4:18; Phil. 3:19; Ecclesiastes!)

3) God designed us to find our delight in Him! Genesis 1:26 *"Let us make man in our image"*
Ecc. 3:11 *"He's made everything beautiful in his time: ... set the world ('ôlām: eternity) in their heart"*
Ps 37:3-5 *"trust in the Lord... Delight in the Lord, Commit thy way unto the Lord... He shall bring it to pass."*

B. New Testament: Lk 12:15 *"beware of covetousness: (Pleonexi'a: greed.... desiring more.)
"For a man's life consists not in the abundance of the things which he possesses."*

1) It involves a desire/drive for more than we need. 1 Tim. 6:5-10

a) God has promised to meet our needs. (Phil 4:19) Mt 6:33 *"seek ye first... added unto you"*

2) It's the foundation of the world's values.

a) Satan uses it to draw us away from God's Purposes and Priorities. (1 Jn 2:15,16; Phil. 3:19)
1 Tim. 6:8-11 *10 "the love of money is the root of all evil, which while some coveted after they have erred from the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."*

b) That's why God compares it to Idolatry. Ex. 20:3

Col. 3:5 *"Covetousness... is idolatry."* (Eidōlolatri'a: serving devils!)

1 Jn 5:19,21 *"we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness....
keep (fhylasso: guard) yourselves from idols."*

2. The Measure of Covetousness: In such a covetous culture, it's Difficult to Gauge, yet it was one of the sins the church is commanded to deal with in 1 Cor. 5:11.

A. The Cancer of Covetousness is a world wide pandemic! And Getting worse!

1993 movie "Indecent Proposal" made 29 million in its first week in spite of poor ratings.

USA Today poll revealed 62% of women said they'd sell their bodies for a million dollars!

B. How do I know if I've been infected?

1) I feel/act like I am the "owner" instead of the "Manager" of God's resources.

(1 Cor 4:2,7) *"Let a man account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God....
it is required in stewards, (oikonom'os: manager) that a man be found faithful."*

Our time/talents/treasures are actually tests of our Trustworthiness! Lk 16:10-13; Mt. 25

2) I have more than I need but neglect to share with those in genuine need.

(James 2:15-17)

3) I fail to *"Render unto God the things that are God's."* Mt. 22:21 (See Mal. 3:3-12)

4) I grow insensitive to God's promptings in financial areas. (1 Jn. 3:17)

5) I borrow to purchase luxuries or increase my "standard of living." Pr. 22:7

6) I grow bored or discontent with the things that I do have. 1 Tim. 6:4-6

Americans are the wealthiest people in the world, yet we're also the most discontent.

Application: What's the Cure for the Cancer of Covetousness?

Contentment (1 Tim. 6:6) *"Godliness with contentment is great gain."*

and Cooperation with God. (1 Tim. 6:17-19) *"Charge them that are rich in this world,
that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly
all things to enjoy; That they do good, (agathoergeō: beneficial, practical works)*

*that they be rich in good (kalos: virtuous, valuable) works, ready to distribute, (eumetad'otos: share,
willing to communicate; (koinōnikos: partner with God) Laying up in store for themselves a good
foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life." (Eternal Treasures!)*

God's committed to us *"all things that pertain to life and godliness"* (2 Peter 1:3; 2 Cor. 4:7)

**Are you willing to partner with God through Faith Promise to make an eternal difference in
the lives of others? "laying up ... a good foundation for the time to come."**